

## Frequently Ask Questions

### 2014 Combined Shotgun/Archery Deer Harvest Program

### Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve

**Why is Loudoun County holding these hunts?** The carrying capacity is the natural level of deer that can be sustained on a certain piece of property without degradation to the natural resources or negative impacts to the deer. The carrying capacity of the deer at Banshee Reeks has been exceeded and the number of deer needs to be reduced.

**What are the dates of the harvest?** The combined shotgun/archery hunt will take place December 5, 12, and 19, 2014 at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, 21085 The Woods Road, Leesburg, VA 20176. The weather date is January 2, 2015.

**How do I register for the managed hunt program?** Interested hunters must register for the lottery through Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS). Individuals **must first establish a household account**. New and existing household account information is available online at [www.loudoun.gov/webtrac](http://www.loudoun.gov/webtrac). After establishing a household account number and password, hunters can register for the lottery. The activity number for the shotgun hunt is **267501-01**. The activity number for the archery hunt is **267501-02**. The lottery registration fee is \$10 per chance for county residents and \$15 per chance for non-residents.

Online registration runs through 12:00 a.m. (midnight) on October 31, 2014. In-person lottery registration will also be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the PRCS Administrative Office, 20145 Ashbrook Place, Ashburn, VA 20147. For additional registration assistance, call 703-777-0343.

**Can I purchase more than one lottery chance?** There is no limit to the number of lottery chances purchased. However, registration will close at 12:00 a.m. (midnight) on October 31.

**How will I know if I am selected?** On November 1, hunters and alternates will be selected through the lottery and notified via email. All selected hunters who plan to participate **must respond by email no later than November 10**. The selected hunters are required to attend an orientation class on Sunday, November 19, at 10:30 a.m. at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Hunting areas will be assigned at the orientation.

**What time of day is the harvest program taking place?** The hunt will begin at sunrise and conclude ½ hour before sunset on each day.

**Can I shoot bucks or does?** PRCS has instituted an Earn-A-Buck (EAB) program. Hunters will be allowed to harvest one antlered buck, with a **minimum** of four (4) points total, **after** they harvest at least one antlerless deer. Hunters must use their own DGIF-issued tag for all antlered deer harvested. Tags will be provided for all antlerless deer. The antlerless deer harvest program is part of the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) through Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

**How many deer per day can I harvest?** Hunters can harvest as many deer as allowed under VA DGIF regulations. There is no limit on the number of antlerless deer that can be harvested; however, hunters cannot harvest more than three antlered deer per season, and hunters must take all of the deer that they harvest.

**Is any of the meat going to Hunters for the Hungry?** This is up to the individual hunter. Loudoun County does not require donation to this program; however, we encourage participation in this program and will provide information on Hunters for the Hungry.

**I am a disabled hunter. Can I participate?** We have identified several locations that will be able to accommodate disabled hunters.

**I have an underage child whom I would like to experience the hunt. Is this permitted?** Since the number of participants in each area is limited to one, children will not be allowed to participate.

**Can my 15-year-old participate?** Virginia hunting regulations require hunters under the age of 16 to be directly supervised by an adult. Since only one hunter is allowed per area for this hunt, minors under 16 will not be allowed to participate.

**If I am selected, do I get to hunt one or more days?** All selected hunters are expected to participate in all three days of the archery hunt. If a selected hunter cannot meet that expectation, he/she can relinquish a day to an alternate from the list. All originally-selected hunters are required to hunt on the first day (December 5) or forfeit their hunt.

**How do I qualify?** Qualification cards are available online at [www.loudoun.gov/prcs](http://www.loudoun.gov/prcs). Hunters can take the card to any local range to qualify with traditional or cross bow. The signed qualification card must be brought to the orientation in order to obtain a permit. If a hunter has qualified at other controlled hunts in Northern Virginia within the past three years, that qualification will be honored.

**Who can I call for more information?** For more information about the combined hunt, contact Banshee Reeks manager Ron Circe at 703-669-0316. For registration information or assistance, contact the PRCS administrative office at 703-777-0343.

**Do I need a Virginia Hunting license?** All applicable hunting rules and regulations will be in effect during this archery hunt. All applicable licenses (i.e., Virginia Hunting, Big Game, or Archery) are mandatory and will be checked at the orientation meeting.

**Where do I purchase the Loudoun County hunting permit, if I am selected?** Each selected hunter must pay a non-refundable \$30 permit fee by November 14. The permit fee can be paid online at [www.loudoun.gov/webtrac](http://www.loudoun.gov/webtrac), using activity number **267520-01**, or in person at the PRCS Administrative office in Ashburn. The paper permits will be distributed at the orientation. Only selected hunters should purchase this permit.

**Do I need to wear Blaze Orange?** The same VADGIF regulations are in effect for this program, requiring hunters to wear blaze orange.

**Do I need to hunt from a tree stand?** Hunters are not required to hunt from a tree stand, however, if a tree stand is used, a safety harness is required.